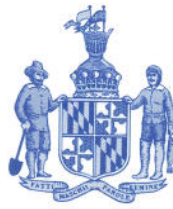


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**March 2, 2012**

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**For Immediate Release:**

**ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY EXECUTIVE JOHN LEOPOLD FACES  
CRIMINAL CHARGES OF MISCONDUCT IN OFFICE**

State Prosecutor Emmet C. Davitt announced today that Anne Arundel County Executive John Leopold has been indicted by the Anne Arundel County Grand Jury.

County Executive Leopold was charged with four counts of misconduct in office, and one count of fraudulent misappropriation by a fiduciary. The indictment alleges that Mr. Leopold regularly misused his executive protection squad for his own political and personal benefit. It details a systematic use of on-duty sworn Anne Arundel County officers as political campaign workers regularly requiring them to place, distribute and check on political campaign signs, often for several hours a day, throughout the 2010 campaign season. On several occasions, it is also alleged that officers were instructed to pick up and/or deposit campaign contribution checks. On other occasions, officers were allegedly instructed to drive Mr. Leopold to specific locations where he removed and discarded the signs of his political opponent. According to the indictment, the police officers were also instructed to create and maintain dossiers on several of Mr. Leopold's political opponents.

The indictment further alleges that County Executive Leopold regularly misused his executive protection staff and other county employees for his own personal benefit. According to the indictment, Mr. Leopold frequently, often two or three times a week during the second half of 2010, instructed these same officers to drive him to local commercial parking lots and wait for him while he entered another vehicle and engaged in sexual activity with another county employee. The indictment also recounts two hospital stays for back surgery during which the County Executive required an additional police officer to work overtime to prevent one girlfriend from meeting up with his live in partner. The cost to Anne Arundel County for police overtime pay during these hospital stays exceeded \$10,000. The indictment further alleges that he required his executive protection officers and his administrative aide to perform numerous other personal tasks on his behalf.

In connection with the pending charges, State Prosecutor Emmet C. Davitt said :

“Public officials criminally abuse their public trust when they treat public resources as their personal property and public personnel as their personal servants. These abuses will not be tolerated.”

No trial date has been set. Although charged, the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until convicted.